

THINKING BRIDGE -- By Eddie Kantar
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Dir: North Vul: N-S	NORTH ♠ K Q 10 6 ♥ 8 3 ♦ A 6 5 3 ♣ K 7 5		West	North	East	South
			--	1 Diamond	Pass	1 Heart
			Pass	1 Spade	Pass	2 NT
			All Pass			
WEST ♠ A 8 7 ♥ 6 5 2 ♦ J 10 9 8 ♣ J 8 2		EAST ♠ J 9 5 ♥ Q J 10 9 ♦ K 7 4 ♣ A 10 3	Opening Lead = ♦ J			
	SOUTH ♠ 4 3 2 ♥ A K 7 4 ♦ Q 2 ♣ Q 9 6 4					

Bidding commentary: In the modern game, 12 high-card points with the North distribution is an opening bid. South's secondround jump to 2NT is not forcing (11-12 highcard points or a very good 10). North has an easy pass.

Lead commentary: Though one avoids leading dummy's first-bid suit, a perfect fourcard sequence takes priority over a marginal holding in an unbid suit.

Defensive commentary: East wins the ♦ K and shifts to the ♥ Q. Declarer wins the ♥ K and leads a spade towards the K-Q-10-6 in dummy. As West, holding the ace and seeing this spade combination in dummy, duck the first spade, and if declarer plays the king and later leads a second spade, duck again. Just do it!

As East, holding the ace with or without the jack, and seeing this spade combination to your right in dummy, duck the first spade. These ducks must be made smoothly. If the defenders play properly, South has to guess who has the ♠ A. If West takes the ♠ A on either lead, he eliminates the guess in the suit. If East has the ♠ A and not the jack and wins the first round, he exposes West, who may have J-x-x, to a second round finesse.

Play commentary: As South, assuming the defenders have played their spades properly and smoothly, the fate of the contract depends on which spade you play from dummy the second time. If you try the 10, you are toast. Also, if you played the 10 the first time, you are toast, only a little sooner. The 10 would be the right play, however, if the East-West spades were reversed